

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01252 052044Z

70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SS-15 EUR-12 SSO-00 /038 W

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P 051730Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3246

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 1252

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, PFOR, CO

SUBJECT: OAS CHARTER REFORM

REF: A) STATE 18860; B) 22439

1.AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED PROPOSALS REFTELS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO FEB 3. HE IS BASICALLY IN SYMPATHY WITH OUR PROPOSALS (WITH ONE EXCEPTION, SEE BELOW). HE ASKED FOR TIME TO THINK ABOUT OUR POSITIONS AND HOW PROCEDURALLY AND TACTICALLY WE MIGHT BEGIN. HE PROMISED TO MEET AGAIN IN A FEW DAYS. HE CLAIMED EVERY WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH US RE THESE INITIATIVES. HE STRESSED NEED FOR A MEETING OF THE MINDS ON A NEW CONCEPT OR PURPOSE FOR THE OAS IF ACCEPTANCE OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES IS TO BE ACHIEVED.

2. LIEVANO MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. HE DISAGREES WITH THE IDEA OF REDUCING THE REQUIREMENT OF APPROVAL OF NEW MEMBERS TO A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE. HE HAS, AS DEPT. KNOWS, GREAT RESERVATIONS AS TO UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEM OF MINI-STATES (SEE 75 BOGOTA 11725). HE DOES NOT SEE WHY WE SHOULD MAKE IT ANY EASIER FOR MINI-STATES TO BECOME MEMBERS AND THINKS THERE IS SOME LOGICAL CONTRADICTION BETWEEN ELIMINATING ARTICLE 8 RESTRICTION AND REDUCING REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW MEMBERS ON THE ONE HAND, AND TRYING TO STEER THEM OFF INTO

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 01252 052044Z

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP ON THE OTHER.

B. HE THINKS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ITEMS ARE ELIMINATION OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL AND STRENGTHENING OF THE SECRETARIAT. THESE HE THINKS ARE THE REAL NUB OF THE PROPOSALS AND WILL BE THE MOST DIFFICULT OBJECTIVES TO ACHIEVE. HE WOULD SUPPORT THESE PROPOSALS, HOWEVER.

3. LIEVANO THEN SAID THAT A BASIC NEED IS TO ARTICULATE SOME SORT OF PURPOSE OR CONCEPT FOR A NEW OAS. SINCE ELIMINATION OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL AND STRENGTHENING THE SECRETARIAT CONSTITUTED MAJOR SURGERY, THERE HAD TO BE SOME GOOD PURPOSE, CLEARLY ACCEPTED AND EXPLAINED, TO JUSTIFY IT. OAS MEMBERS ARE UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT THESE DRASTIC MEASURES FOR THEIR OWN SAKE. IN SHORT, THE QUESTION IS "STREAMLINING FOR WHAT"? LIEVANO STRESSED THAT HE WAS NOT TALKING ABOUT "IDEOLGY", AND NOT NECESSARILY ABOUT RHETORIC OR LABELS. RATHER WHAT HE MEANT WAS THAT THERE MUST BE SOME MEETING OF THE MINDS ON A NEW PURPOSE AND CONCEPT OF THE ROLE THE OAS SHOULD FILL, FROM WHICH THE PRO-CEDURAL/ORGANIZATIONAL REFORMS WOULD FLOW AND BY WHICH THEY WOULD BE EXPLAINED AND ACCEPTED.

4. LIEVANO THEN SPOKE ELOQUENTLY ON A THEME HE HAS STRESSED BEFORE. THERE MUST BE, HE SAID, A CLOSE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE US AND LATIN AMERICA, AND THE OAS PROVIDED THE MECHANISM BY WHICH A NORTH-SOUTH CHANNEL FOR THE HEMISPHERE COULD BE MAINTAINED. IN EFFECT, HE SAID, THERE WAS NEED FOR A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP, BUT NEITHER SIDE WOULD FIND IT IN ITS INTEREST TO LABEL IT AS SUCH PUBLICLY. THE WORLD, HE SAID, WAS DIVIDING INTO BLOCS--THE LOME BLOC, THE SOCIALIST WORLD, THE COMMONWEALTH, THE ECONOMIC BLOCS ROUGHLY GROUPED AROUND THE GERMAN MARK AND THE JAPANESE YEN. ONLY LATIN AMERICA HAD NO LARGER GROUP TO WHICH IT COULD RELATE. IF IT DOES NOT SO RELATE THE REGION WILL FRAGMENT, AND SEEK SUPPORT BY A VARIETY OF CONNECTIONS--TO NON-ALIGNED, THE 77, ETC. AND THESE, HE AFFIRMED, TEND TO BE CONFRONTATIONAL, I.E. TO HAVE FORMED TO CONFRONT THE US. LATIN AMERICAN  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 01252 052044Z

GROUPS LIKE SELA, HE SAID, WOULD BECOME ALTERNATIVES TO LACK OF CHANNELS TO THE US, AND THEIR CONFRONTATIONAL ASPECTS WOULD BECOME HEIGHTENED IF THE OAS COLLAPSED OR BECAME INEFFECTIVE.

5. AS TO WHAT WOULD PROVIDE THE SUBSTANCE FOR RELATIONS AMONG US, AND FOR WHICH THE OAS WOULD PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK, LIEVANO SAID WE SHOULD PERHAPS GO BACK TO

THE CONSENSUS OF VINA DEL MAR, BECAUSE THAT WAS A SINCERE AND FORTHRIGHT EXPRESSION OF LATIN FRUSTRATION AND CONCERN. HE DID NOT, HE SAID, SUGGEST THAT THAT BECOME THE AGENDA, BUT RATHER THAT THAT BE VIEWED AS BROADLY LOCATING LA CONCERNS, AND THEREFORE PERHAPS SUGGESTING SOME OF THE THEMES FOR WHICH WE SHOULD ORGANIZATIONALLY PREPARE OURSELVES.

6. LIEVANO SAID THAT THESE WERE HIS PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS AS TO THE PHILOSOPHICAL UNDERPINNING OF OAS REFORM; HE WANTED TO DEVELOP THEM MORE SYSTEMATICALLY. THEREFORE, I URGED HIM TO DO SO, AND SUGGESTED THAT IF HE REDUCED THEM TO WRITING IT WOULD BE HELPFUL.  
VAKY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, REORGANIZATIONS, OAS CHARTER, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BOGOTA01252  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 18860  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OAS CHARTER REFORM  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CO, OAS, (LIEVANO AGUIRRE, INDALECIO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006